

Madonna



Robert Dewey Hoskins trailed her for five years. Jailed in March for ten years. Described as an "extremely dangerous individual".

Diana



Followed by Liam Whitney and Klaus Wagner, left. Whitney bound over to keep the peace. Court injunction taken out against Wagner.

Margaret Bent



Dennis Chambers cleared of "causing grievous bodily harm with intent". Chambers had allegedly followed Bent everywhere.

Perry Southall



Followed and harassed for eight months by Clarence Morris. Morris found guilty last month of two charges of assault. Awaiting sentence.



New law to give stalkers five years in jail

Duncan Campbell looks at legislation that will also affect journalists and abusive neighbours

STALKERS face up to five years in jail under legislation announced by the Government yesterday. The move comes after growing pressure for action from victims of stalkers, women's organisations and the police. Two new criminal offences and a new civil procedure will be put forward in a Private Member's Bill and are likely to have overwhelming support. The moves were broadly welcomed by anti-stalking campaigners and the opposition parties yesterday. Yesterday's announcement is an indication of how far the perception of stalking has changed in the last five years. From being an issue that the public was only dimly aware of, stalking has now been recognised as a source of great distress not only to people in the public eye but to thousands of people who have felt that the law has let them down badly. The new law, when it comes into effect, may be used not only against persistent stalkers but also against door-stepping journalists, abusive neighbours and racial harassers. Members of the intelligence services and the law enforcement agencies will be exempt

of flowers, a telephone call or a love letter, he said.

The majority of stalkers are former partners or work colleagues of the victim. Others have an obsession with a well-known public figure and follow them around the country.

Mr Maclean said it would be up to the police and the Crown Prosecution Service to determine whether someone's behaviour was "reasonable and necessary" if, for instance, someone objected to a door-to-door salesman or journalist knocking on their door.

The bill received an unreserved welcome from Evmone von Heussen, co-founder and director of Nash, the national anti-harassment campaign which was founded three years ago.

"This is most welcome news which will make every victim happy," said Ms von Heussen. "This bill is a triumph for all the families of the victims who have died at the hands of stalkers."

Ms von Heussen, who was a stalker's victim for 17 years, said that when she and her daughter, Kristin, first started campaigning on the issue, MPs and some Home Office officials did not know what stalking was and thought they were both animal rights campaigners. Nash had since been in contact with nearly 8,000 victims, she said.

But she warned against believing that the problem was now solved. "Having laws against rape and domestic violence has not stopped them. There are no miracle cures," she said. She claimed the proposed law was tougher than existing anti-stalking legislation in north America and Australia.

Offences and defences

It will be illegal to: "Use words or behaviour, on more than one occasion, which would put the victim in fear of violence." Maximum penalty: five years' imprisonment, unlimited fine, or both. "Use words or behaviour, on more than one occasion, which would cause the victim to be harassed, alarmed or distressed."

Maximum penalty: six months' imprisonment, a £5,000 fine, or both. Restraining injunction will be available through civil courts, a breach would be a criminal offence with a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment or an unlimited fine, or both. The actions can be defended in criminal and civil proceedings if they are carried out in

the interests of national security; for the prevention, detection or investigation of crime by law enforcement officers; or under statutory authority. For the lower level criminal offence and the civil action, there is a defence if someone is "reasonably and necessarily in pursuit of a business, trade or profession, or other lawful act".

there will be consensus across the floor of the House and it will go on to the statute book," she said of the Bill. The Government had claimed there were too many legal loopholes in Ms Anderson's proposal and did not support it.

Shadow Home Secretary Jack Straw was also guarded in his support: "Effective action to tackle stalking could already have been law if the Government had not churlishly blocked Janet Anderson's bill last May. But now they have taken this issue over, the Government must give it the priority it deserves."

Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman Alan Beith criticised the way the law was being introduced. "This matter is far too urgent to be left to a Private Members bill," he said.

The police have long campaigned for legislative action on stalking and both the

Police Federation and the Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo) welcomed the news last night, although interpreting the law may present the service with delicate problems of interpretation.

Maria Wallis, the assistant Chief Constable of Sussex, who speaks on stalking for Acpo, said: "Police intervention needs to commence at an early stage to ensure adequate protection for victims."

Tracey Sant, victim of the first stalker jailed for inflicting psychological harm, welcomed the bill. Ms Sant, aged 28, was hounded by former serviceman Anthony Burstow, aged 35, before he was jailed in March.

"I am happy to hear that finally victims are going to have a light at the end of the tunnel," said Ms Sant. The bill will apply to England and Wales but will contain provisions appropriate to Scottish law.

Maggie O'Kane reviews four cases

Notes warning of plots against Diana were left almost daily

DIANA, Princess of Wales, has had been followed by at least two stalkers: Klaus Wagner for 37 months to warn her of "plots" against her and a 36-year-old Irishman, Liam Whitney, with a psychiatric history. Mr Whitney broke into the grounds of Kensington Palace, where she lives, twice in three months, and told police he was "stalking with Diana". He was bound over to keep the peace for a year and fined £50.

Wagner followed her on an almost daily basis trying to shove notes into her hand outside her London gym. Throughout his high profile stalking the father of three insisted he was not a "weirdo" and even appeared in a TV documentary on stalkers, describing how he favoured leaving letters under the windscreen of her car as the best way to warn her of "plots". She succeeded in shaking him off with a court injunction and the case did not go court.

He also tried to communicate with her by standing in front of the gym with bizarre home-made placards and newspaper clippings showing pictures of the Queen, with the numbers 666 emblazoned across them.

'He followed me constantly and seemed to take joy out of it'

DENNIS Chambers was cleared last month of "causing grievous bodily harm with intent". Mr Chambers, aged 37, of no fixed address, had been accused by Margaret Bent of stalking her. "I can't believe this is happening," a tearful Ms Bent said as she left the court. "He had been following me around constantly and seemed to take a lot of joy out of doing it." The case was thrown out of court after Judge Quentin Campbell directed the jury to acquit Mr Chambers. The judge said it was "extremely

difficult" to prove intent in matters of psychiatric or psychological harm. Ms Bent had told the Inner London crown court that she had lost weight, lost sleep, felt ill and had started smoking because of the psychological stress. She claimed he followed her home every day and made thousands of telephone calls to her Brixton home.

She claimed Mr Chambers had been following her since 1992, and that he had come to the cafe where she worked, armed with a 10-inch knife. Mr Chambers, a delivery van driver, denied the charges and conducted his own defence. Sitting on the bench normally reserved for lawyers, a few feet from Ms Bent, he cross-examined her on her claims. "My mind is not my own at the moment," she told the court.

Accused of 'behaving like queen bee that dresses to kill'

PERRY Southall, aged 30, endured an eight month campaign of terror by Clarence Morris, a convicted rapist, who was found guilty last month of two charges of assault. The court ruled that the mental torture she suffered was tantamount to a physical assault. Morris, 37, is awaiting sentence. The case was highly controversial because of the sexist remarks of the defence barrister, who accused the victim of "behaving like a queen bee that dresses to kill". The bar-

rist, Denis Stanton, was reported to the Bar Council and rebuked by the judge for remarks that were critical of Ms Southall for allegedly modelling herself on the "over-exposed and sexually active" Baywatch character played by Pamela Anderson in the television series. The judge declared that the remarks were an insult to Ms Southall.

She was subjected to 200 incidents and confrontations. Morris had threatened her twice with a wallpaper scraper and had thrown women's underwear into the reception of the dental practice where she worked.

The judge concluded the case saying: "Women have the right to dress however they wish and it should not be seen as an open invitation to harassment."

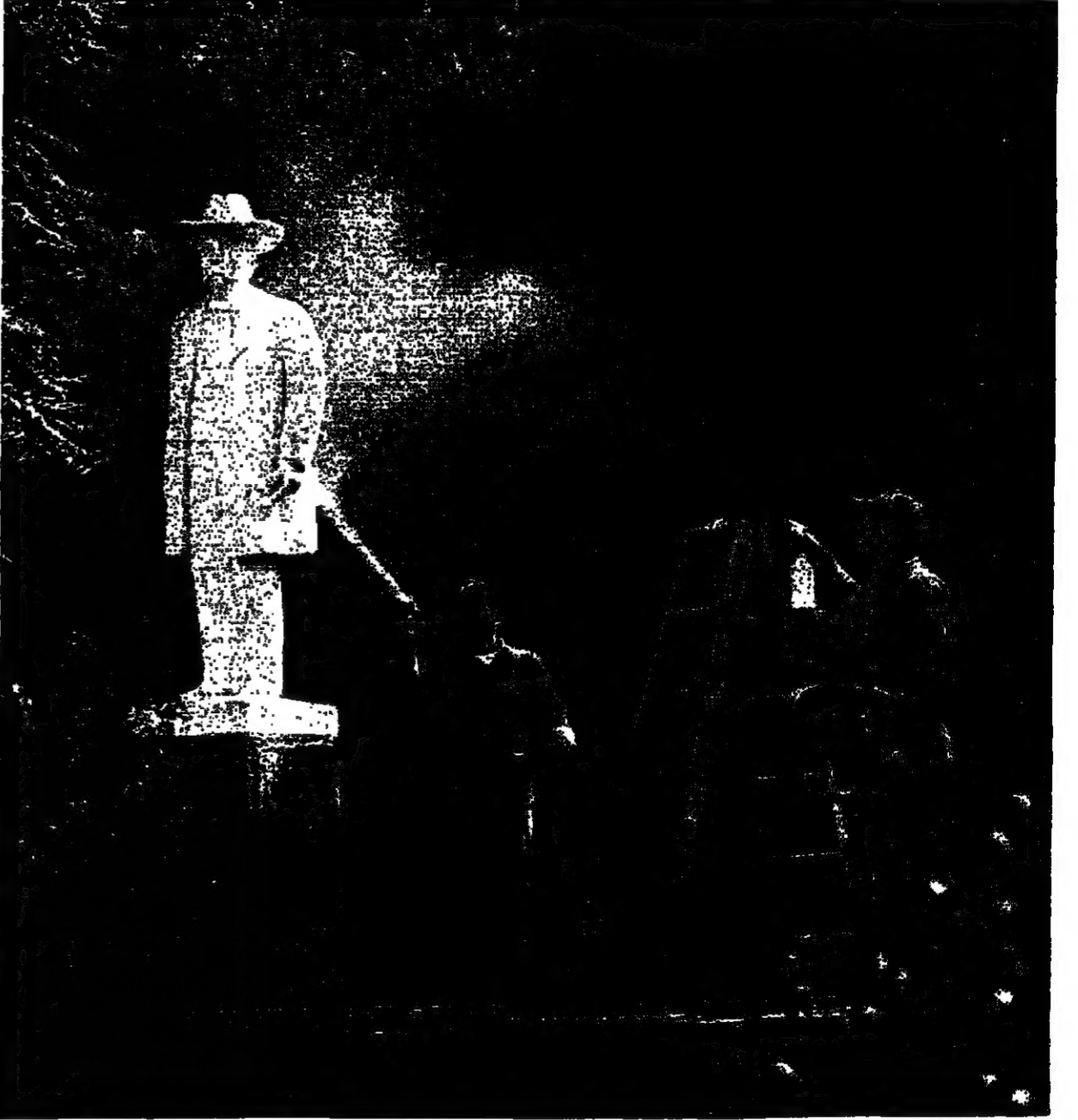
He would 'slice her from ear to ear unless she married him'

ROBERT Dewey Hoskins, 40, followed Madonna across the US for five years before he was jailed for 10 years in March 1996. Madonna, 38, told a court how Hoskins had threatened to "slice her from ear to ear" unless she married him. She told a court in Los Angeles she felt "incredibly violated" when he stalked out her Hollywood mansion, and that she had been haunted by nightmares about him. A loner and homeless, Hoskins was shot

and wounded by a security guard when he tried to break into her mansion for the second time in 1995. The judge recommended that Hoskins receive psychiatric care during his sentence after he was described in court as "an extremely dangerous individual".

After one break-in, Madonna said she was told by her security guard, "he was there to take me away, he wanted to be my husband".

Madonna failed in her legal battle not to testify at his trial. Giving her evidence she said: "I feel incredibly disturbed that the man who threatened my life is sitting across from me and he has somehow made his fantasies come true. I'm sitting in front of him and that's what he wants."



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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

BSE is only a symptom of the insanity that is affecting food producers. Technology, it seems, is running out of control. What's your poison?

The Week page 17

News in brief

Parents condemn school ban on boy, 5

THE parents of a five-year-old boy who hit his headmaster and bit a teacher have condemned the school's decision to expel him. Paul and Maureen Fedarb, who are appealing against the move, blame their son David's tantrums on an attack by a dog when he was a toddler.

Hume urges Derry calm

SDLP leader John Hume last night appealed to nationalist residents of Londonderry not to stage a counter-demonstration to today's loyalist Apprentice Boys parade in the city. In a last-ditch attempt to defuse a potentially dangerous situation, the Foyle MP said the Apprentice Boys should be allowed to march unhindered — and he believed the vast majority of nationalists in the city agreed.

Drug dealer 'loses' child

A FOSTER mother has been awarded interim custody of the daughter of a Jamaican woman due to be deported after serving a jail sentence for dealing in crack cocaine. Helen Osborne, aged 40, from Perth, challenged Perth Sheriff John McInnes' ruling that four-year-old Fiona Matthan, should be returned to her mother Althea, aged 21. Yesterday, three judges at the Court of Session in Edinburgh ruled that the child should remain in Mrs Osborne's care until her future is decided after a detailed investigation by a sheriff.

Channel 5 in Easter launch

CHANNEL 5 is to launch on Easter Sunday, March 30, next year. It was confirmed yesterday. Britain's last mainstream terrestrial channel secured approval from the Independent Television Commission to delay its original launch date by three months to provide more time to visit 13 million homes to return video recorders to ensure its signal does not interfere with them.

Greens plead to drop bypass

THE controversial £76 million Salisbury bypass will do irreparable damage to the area, environment groups told the Government yesterday. In an open letter to Transport Secretary Sir George Young and Environment Secretary John Gummer urging the scheme to be dropped, 10 organisations said the impact of the 11-mile scheme was not justified on strategic grounds, could not solve the Wiltshire city's traffic problems, and "would do great and irreparable damage to the environment and landscape setting of Salisbury and to the wildlife and ecology of one of Europe's finest chalk stream systems".

Punter forgot £1m win

A PUNTER who won £243,636 and then disappeared has turned up — unaware he was a winner. Brian Greene, a hotel chef in his 30s, walked out of a Ladbrokes betting shop in Birmingham on Saturday after watching the last of the six horses in his £1 each way accumulator romp home. But Ladbrokes could not find him until he returned to the Sparkhill shop last night — to make another bet. "I can't believe that Ladbrokes have been so honest," he said. A company spokesman explained: "He had apparently changed his mind about one of his selections at the last minute and forgot that a 20-1 winner was his choice. When he didn't say anything the shop managers gave him the good news and he nearly fainted."

A game of other halves
Footballers' wives: the cars, the houses, the fancy frocks, the lonely nights wondering...
The Observer

Man's body is believed to have fallen from wheel well as aircraft prepared for landing at Heathrow
Jet stowaway died of cold

Vivek Chaudhary

A MAN believed to have been a stowaway, who fell out of an aircraft heading for Heathrow Airport, died of hypothermia, a post-mortem examination revealed yesterday. The body of the man, who has not been named, was discovered on Wednesday in a disused garages in Richmond, Surrey — six miles from the airport. He is believed to have hidden in the undercarriage housing. He suffered multiple injuries consistent with a fall from a great height. Police are now trying to establish whether the man, an Indian national aged 19, whose family have yet to be informed of his death, was travelling with another stowaway, also an Indian national, who was discovered wandering near Heathrow's Terminal 4 on Sunday.

A part of Richmond which lies under the flightpath to the airport, at a point where planes would be lowering their undercarriages for final approach. His friend was found last Sunday, also suffering from hypothermia, hiding under the belly of a British Airways plane, and was detained by airline staff. He was described as being "poorly and almost unable to walk". The man, who has not been named, was treated in hospital and is being held at Harmondsworth detention centre, close to the airport, where he has applied for leave to enter the United Kingdom. A spokesman for the Immigration Department said: "He has been interviewed and we are now dealing with his request for leave to enter the UK."

"We are still trying to establish whether the two men were travelling together but there is no suggestion that the dead man was pushed out of the aeroplane. This is a very difficult case because there is a lot of emotional sensitivities involved." British Airways has launched an investigation into how the two men managed to hide on the aircraft. The case has highlighted the perils of aeroplane stowaways, most of whom tend to conceal themselves in the undercarriage area, putting their lives at risk. The number of aircraft stowaways is still relatively small, averaging between three to four cases each year. Most either end up dying of hypothermia or dying of severe injuries after being mangled by the undercarriage after take-off. There are however, no official statistics on the number of aircraft stowaways who are discovered each year. Kieran Daly, of Flight International magazine, said: "It's a very risky business and, quite often, those who attempt it end up dying. There is plenty of space in the well of the undercarriage but there is a fair chance that you will either freeze to death or be crushed by the undercarriage. While the number of stowaways is relatively small, it is a problem that has been going on for some years now. Most airlines now carry out stringent headcounts and searches of cargo hold areas before aeroplanes take off. Mr Daly added: "It's virtually impossible for a stowaway to board a plane or hide in the hold. But with airports being such large places, it's much easier for them to sneak into the undercarriage well." The last such stowaway to be detected was a Russian who was found frozen to death after an Aeroflot plane landed at Rome in September.

Moving tale of the family from hell

Sarah Boseley hears a mother's cry for help

A MOTHER of eight who has been forced to move house 11 times in 10 years is facing possible eviction again after neighbours have launched a petition to drive out the "family from hell". Jenny White — whose boys are banned from supermarkets and buses — says they are neither mad nor bad, but suffering from attention deficit disorder. Neighbours have objected to the children breaking saps, kicking milk bottles and smashing car windows. One said: "They have run riot all over our front gardens and climb over our sheds. They even chased my cat with a big stick. When they go to the local shops they unleash any dogs tied up. Their sole aim is to find trouble. We want them out."



Little terrors... Jenny White with three of her sons Paul, Leo and Billy who, she says, suffer from attention deficit disorder. PHOTOGRAPH: RUSSELL SACH

Ms White's husband Shane, father of her youngest child, one year-old Mico, left earlier this year. She said: "We have had to move so often because neighbours have kept a log of all the things the kids do. "And when we move it seems the old neighbours tell the new ones so we start day one at a new place facing hostility from the neighbours."

Billy, aged 10, is on Ritalin, the drug often prescribed for Attention Deficit Disorder, or hyperactivity. Paul, aged nine, is about to start at a special school and his mother says he may need to go on medication soon. Ms White has a letter from social services confirming that the children's problems include "aggressive, disruptive behaviour with a short attention span, poor concentration, poor sleeping patterns, high anxiety and low self-esteem". She admits she cannot control her children. She said: "When they watched Rambo they became fascinated by knives and guns. They would steal my cutlery knives and put them in their socks. They have thrown knives at each other."

She decided violent films were a poor idea, so hired Mary Poppins. "The next day they were running over the roofs of the houses. They watched the musical Oliver and started pick-pocketing and when they saw Mutant Ninja Turtles they went outside and managed to lift up a drain. I got to them just as they were beginning to climb down the drain to meet the turtles." Ms White says she would like her latest neighbours to take into account the boys' problems. She is tired of being moved from one council house to another. "I just want to live in a happy home with the children," she said.

Goldsmith's Referendum Party 'aiding Labour win'

As the new party gathers for its first rally, its supporters seem not to be much worried that they could help elect Tony Blair. Michael White reports

THE Referendum Party's intervention in the next general election could help elect a Labour government more sympathetic to European integration than John Major's key advisers to Sir James Goldsmith admitted last night. As a predicted 3,000 supporters gathered for their first party conference in Brighton today, Sir James promised to use his speech this afternoon to expose the "consistent history of deception" over Europe and to force an early referendum on federalism. But he faced mockery from rivals on the right and accusations of myth-peddling from the European Movement as well as charges of intolerance against those who have disagreed with him. Arriving to a VIP news-media scrum at the Grand Hotel on the seaford, the billionaire financier was questioned about why some reporters for the Daily Mirror and Daily Telegraph had been denied credentials to attend the conference. He insisted that any bona-fide journalist could attend: "We seek a debate." He responded to John Major's dismissal of his embryonic party, which claims 50,000 members as a "fringe organisation" that would not dam-

age Tory hopes of a fifth term. "It's not for him to decide. It's not for us. Let the people decide," Sir James said. The self-declared aim of the party, in which £20 million of Goldsmith money will be invested if needed, is to force a full-scale anti-federalist referendum and then dissolve itself. Mr Major has so far conceded no more than a referendum if he seeks to join a single currency, which Sir James dismisses as "only a trivial point" compared with sovereignty which has already been lost. But his supporters are all too aware that they could help elect Tony Blair by costing the Tories marginal seats. Lord McAlpine, now a Goldsmith ally, said: "I'm not scared of it [a Blair win]. I actually think that's probably what would happen. I think John Major and his Cabinet should be scared of it and I think that they should actually announce there is going to be a referendum." Another supporter, Thatcher's former economic adviser, Sir Alan Walters, was unperturbed. "If that did happen it would be a Labour government with a slim majority and looking over its shoulder all the time." Lord Archer yesterday again predicted that at least 20 Tory seats could be at risk while the Economist magazine estimated that, even with

0.5 per cent of the vote, the Goldsmith forces could cost the Tories four seats. Sir James and his leading supporters, many of them well-to-do London figures from the Tory right, marked the start of their conference last night with a series of dinners for the 180 candidates already chosen and for friends and what Sir James calls "opinion-formers" in the media. The actor, Edward Fox, unveiled the first of a series of posters proclaiming: "Britannia Does Not Rule Okay" and said: "Unless we get the issue of Europe sorted out we might as well be talking about village whist drives because that is all we shall be allowed to talk about." Along the seaford, Doctor Alan Sked, head of the rival UK Independence Party, prepared to unveil four defectors from the Goldsmith camp, while in Maldstone, Michael Howard, targeted by the Referendum Party in Folkestone despite his Euro-sceptic credentials, publicly welcomed back the former MP, Tim Brinton, from Sir James's side. Doctor Sked is holding his own public meeting in Brighton today to publicise his argument that without total withdrawal from the EU a Goldsmith-style referendum would leave Britain "in exactly the same mess it is in regardless of the outcome of the referendum." Today's conference promises to be as much a rally as a traditional party conference with speeches by leading supporters, including Christopher Booker, the journalist, John Aspinall, the zookeeper, and Charles de Gaulle MEP, an ally of Sir James's Euro-group in Strasbourg. Mr Major and his colleagues have dismissed the Referendum Party as a one-man band. But at least one Tory MP targeted at the next election is expressing concern that the criteria being used are not purely political.

Supporters



PETER de SAVARY, aged 51. Flamboyant businessman and sailor, who owns a shipyard in Cornwall. He has warned that creating a European superstate could lead to civil war



EDWARD FOX, aged 59. He plans to address the conference today on "why referenda are part of the British tradition". His support for Sir James led to widespread publicity for the Referendum Party



JOHN ASPINALL, aged 70. Millionaire businessman, zookeeper and owner of a Mayfair gambling club, he has described the European issue as "the most important question since 1839" for Britain



VISCOUNT TONY PANDY, aged 86. Former Labour Speaker of the House of Commons who used to be known as George Thomas. He has spoken out about domination by Brussels and the threat to UK sovereignty

Testy reply from Santer to challenge for televised debate on Europe

JACQUES Santer, the President of the European Commission, gave a dusty answer in Brussels yesterday to Sir James Goldsmith's demand in newspaper advertisements for a televised debate on Europe, writes Stephen Basses. Showing an unusual degree of testiness, the normally avuncular Mr Santer, a former Prime Minister of Luxembourg, pointed to Sir James's poor record of attendance at the European Parliament — where he sits as a French MEP — and said that if he wanted to debate Europe that was the place to do it. Sir James's advertisement — the culmination of a week of single and double page spreads in national newspapers in the run-up to conference in Brighton — threw down a challenge to Mr Santer. It said that only by holding a live debate on British television could the issues the party had raised be fully debated and the truth publicly established. "We look forward to Mr Santer's reply," it added. Pointing out that Sir James was an "eminent" member of the European Parliament, leader of the all-French 15-member grouping of his L'Autre Europe part, Mr Santer said that was the best place for him to raise his concerns. He added that Sir James had not turned up for a recent debate on the future of Europe but would have another opportunity to do so next week when Mr Santer himself would address the Parliament. Sir James is not known as an assiduous attendee of the monthly sessions in Strasbourg, having put in a brief appearance only twice this year.

Affirm... toll on... 96... Christopher Row... Los Angeles... T...

Affirmative action takes toll on Dole in California



Christopher Reed in Los Angeles

THE principal impediment to Bob Dole's "last stand" for the presidency in California is the chairman of his campaign in the Golden State, the governor, Pete Wilson.

An injection of money, a new television campaign in this most politically telegenic of states, and Mr Dole's creditable performance in Wednesday's debate with President Clinton in San Diego, seem unlikely to overcome a serious tactical error by Mr Wilson.

A shrewd political opportunist, he has a successful record of picking an issue to sweep him and fellow Republicans into office.

In 1994 he was re-elected through the exploitation of illegal immigration. His vehicle was Proposition 187, a referendum that denied most health and educational benefits for undocumented workers. Its easy passage helped new Republican members of

Congress as well as Mr Wilson's otherwise colourless campaign.

This year he picked a political dud, and Mr Dole is stuck with it. The issue is affirmative action (positive discrimination). Under Proposition 209, affirmative action would be scrapped in public employment, education and the awarding of business contracts. But the populist favour the governor expected has yet to appear, and Republicans rarely even mention it.

Last year, when Mr Wilson still nurtured his own presidential ambitions, he regarded Proposition 209 as the ideal vehicle on which to ride into the White House. With its undertone of racial politics, it offered the promise of a repeat of 1994.

Unfortunately for Mr Wilson, his candidacy collapsed early in the Republican primaries. Yet he and his allies at the party's head remain so committed to the issue, it is still the key tactic for a Republican victory in California.

For months Mr Wilson has urged the Dole campaign to embrace the proposition wholeheartedly, as a sure way of galvanising Republicans and attracting floating white voters resentful of "reverse discrimination".

Until this week Mr Dole remained sceptical, concerned that the issue might spur even greater numbers of blacks and Hispanic Democrats to vote in its defence. The choice of Jack Kemp for the vice-presidency reflected his caution: Mr Kemp's civil rights record has made him popular among African-Americans.

Both candidates now endorse the proposition, although the issue shows no signs of a sufficient revival to justify Mr Wilson's enthusiasm. Big businesses, including two leading power suppliers, the Hewlett-Packard computer company and six chambers of commerce, have come out against it. Other businessmen have remained silent, but have withheld cash donations.

"Affirmative action is not like immigration," said an analyst. "It's not costing taxpayers millions in services, and its beneficiaries can't be blamed for annoyances like graffiti or crime. Most important of all, its chief beneficiaries are women, just the voters Dole and Kemp already have most difficulty attracting."

Mr Wilson talks of "fairness" and "a level playing field". But in a private telephone conference last month

seeking support from 60 business leaders, Mr Wilson and his guest, the House Speaker Newt Gingrich, were astonishingly frank. It would not have mattered, except that, unknown to them, a reporter was eavesdropping.

The governor argued that the issue "works strongly to our advantage and has the potential to make a critical difference in the race for Dole and House members". Mr Gingrich added that it was "vital to keep control of the House".

He insisted that it would keep Mr Clinton spending funds and time in California, fighting for its 54 electoral college votes, the election's biggest prize.

Mr Clinton leads Mr Dole by nine points here, and has secured support through 30 visits to California during his presidency. The state's economy is booming and Mr Dole's warnings of future crisis have not dented a cautiously optimistic mood among voters.

Meanwhile, affirmative action has become just another proposition among 14 others on the November 5 ballot.

Its failure to resonate leaves a policy vacuum that even Democrat cash infusions from Indonesian billionaires cannot fill.



Bob Dole meets supporters at a campaign rally in Albuquerque, New Mexico, yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: JIM BOURG

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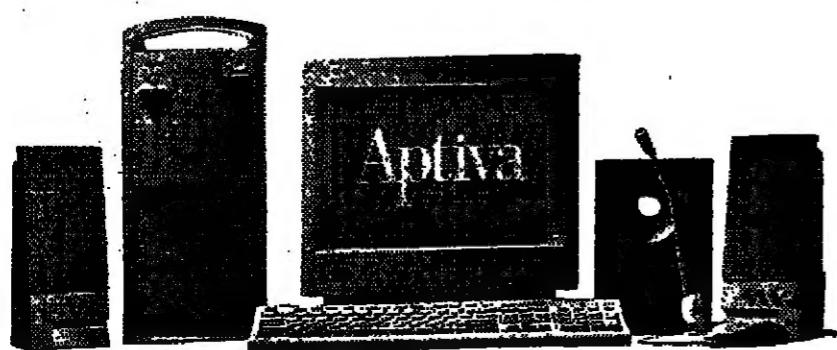


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News in brief

Belgian king joins justice protest

BELGIUM'S King Albert joined the rising tide of demands for a complete overhaul of the justice system yesterday as tens of thousands of people took to the streets across the country for the fourth day running.

There were some minor clashes between protesters and police and traffic was halted by demonstrators outraged at the bungling and incompetence revealed by the country's paedophile murder scandal.

As Brussels prepared for what one newspaper dubbed "the march of the century" on Sunday in support of the parents of dead and missing children, a top minister warned the government could topple. "If the government does not listen to the public and does not make sure that the investigation can continue perfectly, it could fall," said the interior minister, Johan Vande Lanotte. — *Reuters, Brussels.*

Swiss admit Polish deal

SWITZERLAND acknowledged yesterday that it did a secret deal with Poland in 1948 to liquidate Polish citizens' unclaimed wealth, but denied charges that this had let it keep the property of Jewish Holocaust victims.

Under the arrangement, unclaimed Polish funds in Switzerland were to be turned over to Poland's central bank. "Various sides alleged yesterday that Switzerland struck a secret accord with Poland after the second world war that let Switzerland seize for itself dormant assets of Polish citizens," a Swiss foreign ministry statement said. "This allegation is wrong." Switzerland has denied an assertion from Alfonso D'Amato, the chairman of the US Senate banking committee, that Berne struck deals that let it tap the unclaimed wealth of Eastern European Jews to compensate Swiss citizens for property nationalised by communist regimes. — *Reuters, Zurich.*

Turks face human rights trial

IN the most sweeping prosecution of Turkish authorities for alleged human rights abuses, 11 police officers went on trial yesterday for the death of a journalist in detention.

Another 37 police officers face charges of using excessive force on hundreds of people at the funeral of two inmates killed in prison riots. The trial in the western city of Aydin is being closely watched by Turkey's Western allies as a test of its promise to improve its human rights record. None of the 48 defendants was present at the trial.

Meanwhile, an appeal court upheld a 20-month suspended sentence given to the author Yasar Kemal on charges of Kurdish separatism and inciting hatred among the people for an article he wrote attacking the government's handling of the Kurdish insurgency. — *Agencies.*

Iraq may have secret arsenal

THE chief United Nations arms inspector to Iraq, Rolf Ekewus, arrived in Baghdad today to voice suspicion that the Saddam Hussein regime still harbours a secret arsenal of deadly chemical and biological weapons.

The UN team is also concerned about secret work being carried out on long-range missiles that could strike into the heart of Europe.

Mr Ekewus believes there are more revelations to come. He wants to know what became of 300 tonnes of anthrax, large quantities of botulinum toxin, which kills by food poisoning, supplies of aflatoxin, a fungi that causes slow death by cancer, and 300 tonnes of V-X, a harder form of Sarin gas, which was used last year in the Tokyo underground attack that killed 12 people. — *Maggie O'Kane, Baghdad and a have-a-go hero, Weekend, page 28*

KDP retakes strategic town

MOVING forward after a week of setbacks, the Iraqi-backed Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) yesterday retook the strategic town of Koy Sanjak, which straddles the highway to northern Iraq's regional capital, Irbil.

With its capture of the town, the KDP has succeeded in pushing its Iranian-sponsored rivals, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), further away from Irbil, which lies about 30 miles to the north-west.

As the two groups battled east, south-east and north-east of the regional capital, there was no sign that Iraqi troops had helped their KDP allies. — *AP, Koy Sanjak.*

UK ignorance stuns French

BRITISH students are the bookworms of Europe, according to a study for the French ministry of culture. But young Britons are also the most ignorant about foreign writers.

French pollsters who interviewed more than 6,000 third-year university students in Britain, France, Italy, Spain and Germany could not hide their shock at British ignorance. "More than half revealed themselves incapable of citing a single French author!"

Asked what French books they had read, most Britons (44 per cent) said the Asterix cartoons. Asked to name English-language authors, 50 per cent of French students name Shakespeare first, followed by Agatha Christie and Oscar Wilde. The British are the most avid readers but are most likely to own a television — 73 per cent said time was well spent in front of the box, against 69 per cent of French. — *Alex Duval Smith, Paris.*

Edith Penrose

A firm believer

EDITH Penrose, the distinguished economist who has died aged 81, was best known for revolutionising the branch of economics known as the theory of the firm...

pointed to a post at the embassy, as special assistant to the ambassador. In 1944 the couple married and after the war went to John Hopkins University, Baltimore.

While her husband, approaching 65, retired to the UK. Here, Edith looked for a job. She applied to the Economics Faculty at Cambridge where the appointments committee, who had received the galley proofs of the book, were so impressed that they expected the interview to be a formality. In the end, however, her application was rejected.

In the field of oil economics, Penrose was the first person to discover the significance of transfer pricing and tax avoidance, and she was virtually the only economist to treat oil as an industry, rather than an esoteric branch of theory.

not become fully effective overnight. The growth process is therefore dynamically constrained. These ideas may not sound strange to people who have not studied economics, but for all those who have experienced the first year of a micro-economics course, they have a profoundly heterodox implication.

She was born in Los Angeles, where her father was a road engineer for a time they lived in road camps along the highway, and went to the University of California, Berkeley, to study economics in the late 1920s.

At this point, Edith and Penrose decided to take an extended sabbatical overseas, working at universities first in Australia and then in Baghdad.

After McCarthy, the family received a box of hate mail, including threats to burn their house

But there are important administrative restraints on the speed of the firm's growth, and many diversify as its managers for the management of change are tied to the individual firm and so are internally scarce.

Edith Penrose's entry in The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics concluded that the total effect of Edith Penrose's work was the destruction of the neo-classical model of the firm.



Penrose: lively and liberal from her second marriage, of whom one predeceased her.

Robin Morris

Will Murray writes: Edith Penrose was a great woman. She was intellectually courageous, unfailingly lively and liberal in the best sense of the word.

Edith Penrose's entry in The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics concluded that the total effect of Edith Penrose's work was the destruction of the neo-classical model of the firm.

Edith Titton Penrose, economist, born November 29, 1914; died October 11, 1996

Appreciation: Berthold Goldschmidt

Ovation for a master composer

Simon Rattle writes:

I WILL never forget the sight or the emotion of Berthold Goldschmidt (obituary, October 18) on stage in the Berlin Philharmonic in 1987.

As you can imagine, the silence was palpable. In the evening, what was the public premiere of Giacomo Puccini's opera Turandot was an astonishing triumph, an ovation so thunderous it seemed for a moment doubtful that the concert could continue.

It is as a man, though, that these of us close to him will miss him the most. His interest and engagement in everything and everybody around him made him youthful in age, with an almost bewildering degree of warmth and energy.

But on the evening itself, Berthold was eventually forced to leave his seat and climb slowly and painfully with his walking stick down the aisle.

Whatever his attitude to life is well illustrated by his throwaway answer to a leading question: "Do you not feel bitter about your statement in Germany?" "graciously trumped by "You know, bitterness is only a matter of taste".

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Bill Hooper

Percy Prune takes off!

THE personality of Pilot Officer Percy Prune was neatly summed up in a parody of a wartime poem: "So dumb, but so duthful". Prune was the creation of cartoonist Bill Hooper, best remembered by his pen name, Raff, who has died aged 80.

Hooper's other cartoon creation was Aircraftman Plunk, Prune's mechanic, and later came a variation designed for the Fleet Air Arm, Sub-Lieutenant.



Bill Hooper with Perry and, below, some of his RAF cartoons



with their motto, Semper in aeternum. This was the birth of the cry of "Finger!", an RAF acronym for the simple phrase: "Pull your finger out".

one from Marshal of the Royal Air Force, Lord Tedder. Another cause of Hooper's joy at the spreading fame of his creation, was a citation found after the war in the files of the Luftwaffe, recommending Prune for the award of the Iron Cross "for having destroyed so many Allied aircraft".

Weekend Birthdays

John le Carré, aka David Cornwell, is 65 today. He is the son of a dodgy father and a survivor of a bootless and chaotic childhood.



Bill Morris, general secretary, TGWU, 58. Mavis Nicholson, broadcaster, 66.

Today's other birthdays: Prof Sir Robert Boyd, FRS, physicist and astronomer, 74; Eddie Daniels, jazz clarinetist, 55; Phil Davies, rugby player, 33; Michael Gambon, actor, 56; Sidonie Gosseaux, harpist, 58; Bernard Hepton, actor, 71; Rosamund John, actress, 82; Carol Kidd, jazz singer, 61.

Face to Faith

Time to throw away the comfort cushion of dogma

THEOLOGY in the 20th century can be characterised by one, rare, unexpected emotional response: it is exciting. It stirs the heart. In retrospect, it will be seen as one of the most daring, fertile and creative moments in the history of modern thought, a time pregnant with all the possibilities of new birth and new life.

God's Kingdom of Love, been so deaf to the thundering prophetic challenges thrown down by 20th century theologians around the globe.

Whether it is the environment, or the issue of race, God is alive and active in the ongoing establishment of the Kingdom of Love, and who can stop this journey of faith?

It is about compassion, not judgement. It is about love, not law. Is this the focus of our Church? But, busy beyond our wildest dreams, our Church pursues its own agenda for survival, laden with an impossible administrative task, not only to pay its way on a day-to-day basis, but having to meet the ever increasing costs of maintaining a fabric that often does not meet the needs of the moment, yet remains part of a treasured and revered heritage.

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Death Notices

GOLDSCHMIDT, Berthold, on 17th October, peacefully in his sleep at home, aged 82. In accordance with his wishes the cremation will be private. Please no flowers or cards. A memorial service will be held at 11.00 on Saturday, 20th October, at the Crematorium, 100, New Green, London NW10 6AA. No flowers, please. If you wish, a donation in The Gift of Protection League, 11, Abingdon Road, Hove, Sussex BN1 3PA.

Memorial Services

MEMORIAL, Dr Kevin A Memorial celebration for the life of Dr Kevin Keoghane will be held at St George's Roman Catholic Centre, Southway on Friday, 8 November at 11.00am. Friends and colleagues will be welcome and those wishing to attend should contact Mrs J. S. Hall, The Memorial Foundation, 28 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3EJ (0171 637 0561).

Birthdays

MR. BILLESLEY, Happy Birthday. Thinking of you always. Peter Thompson is a curate at St Luke's, Holloway, north London.

Advertisement for Bradford & Bingley. Text: 'We're FREE TO OFFER THE BEST PENSION FOR YOU BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE ONE TO SELL'. Includes contact information: CALL 0800 57 0800. For more information or to make an appointment with one of our independent financial advisers and quote code GU1810. (Lines are open 9.00am-8.30pm Monday-Friday, 10.00am-6.00pm Weekend). Bradford & Bingley Building Society is regulated by the Financial Services Authority for Investment Business.

Turbulence for Tupolev as Russian flag-carrier buys from Boeing

Industry needs engine

David Hearst in Moscow

THE industrial equivalent of freezing fog has enveloped Russia's airports and its aircraft industry. Russia needs to modernise some 1,600 aircraft, but its factories are idle, crippled through shortage of cash. The state coffers are empty and the jobs of 750,000 aircraft workers and at least as many again in ancillary industries — a labour force three times the size of Boeing, McDonnell Douglas and Airbus Industries put together — are in the balance.

Hardly surprising then that when Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, the Soviet Union's last defence minister and now the aggressive director of Aeroflot-Russian International Airlines, announced a decision to buy 10 Boeing 737-400 jets, the wall of anguish could be heard from Tatarstan all the way up the Volga river to Ulyanovsk, an industrial belt where most of the aircraft industry is based.

Shaposhnikov's reply was typically robust: "On all the assemblies, meetings and sessions they are saying, 'Shaposhnikov is not a patriot! And if he will continue to in-

sist that he cannot buy inferior (Russian) planes, the obstinate marshal must be changed." Well the same thing happened in Stalin's time.

"Stalin asked the commander of the Red Army airforce, General Rychagov, why there were so many accidents in the airforce. Back came the answer, 'Because we are forced to fly crude aircraft.' The general closed his mouth. Forever. I was the 17th commander-in-chief of the Soviet military airforce. Eight of my predecessors were shot."

With a government paralysed by bitter faction fighting in the Kremlin, unable and unwilling to intervene, it seems things could not get much worse.

A new generation of twin-engine Tupolev 204s and 214s and four-engine long-range Ilyushin 96s are lying in the factories half-built. The airframes are of international quality and the wing design arguably better than on Boeings and Airbuses.

But the reliability of the engines — in particular the PS90 — were the main problem. Shaposhnikov said that for every PS90 on Aeroflot's six long-range Ilyushin 96 airliners he had to keep three sets of spare parts in reserve. Enter into this all too fam-



When the Red Army airforce commander blamed the number of accidents on being forced to fly crude aircraft, Stalin closed his mouth . . . forever

iliar tale of Russian woe, a smiling confident Egyptian businessman with \$100 million (\$63 million) of financial backing, more, he says, to come, and long experience of working with the Soviet Union.

He is not the first to see the gap in the market, and its prize — how to fit western engines, avionics and interiors into Russian airframes and produce Western-quality aircraft at two-thirds the price of a Boeing or Airbus. Other so-

called hybrid projects include negotiations between Aviastar, Russia's biggest plant in Ulyanovsk, and General Electric to provide engines for the Antonov 124.

But the plans of Dr Ibrahim Kamel, chairman of Kato Aromatic, an Egyptian conglomerate which, as the name implies, started life as a perfume manufacturer, are by far the most ambitious. He is not just trying to fit together parts — the airframe of a medium-range Tu-204 to the tried and

tested Rolls Royce RB211 engine — but to create the entire infrastructure for buying, leasing, marketing and servicing the aircraft.

Kato is even going to put modern galleys and lavatories, seat fabric and oxygen equipment on the Tupolevs. "I have flown in too many Aeroflot flights before," Dr Kamel said.

Kato Aromatic is thinking big. An order for 13 firm and 17 option aircraft is worth, at current prices, \$6 billion, in-

cluding at least \$450 million of business for Rolls Royce. After that, another 170 aircraft could be made. Kato has \$30 million in a bank waiting, pending a government bank guarantee, to be given to Aviastar. Russia's biggest plant in Ulyanovsk, to start production rolling, and the first set of RB 211 engines arrived in Ulyanovsk in July.

"I have always believed that Russia will live and I still believe that, although an old system has been dismantled

and the new system is not yet in place, Russia sooner or later will be a super economic power. Of course, the pains of this period of transition are enormous and, for anybody who does not know this country, it would be fantastic to conceive of a project this size. But we know this industry can't be left to die."

The problems are enormous. The \$30 million kick-start money has been held up for months because the Russian government has not as

Flying far and wide... A Russian aircraft sports Rolls-Royce engines rather than those made locally. PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL

yet produced the bank guarantee. Viktor Mikhailov, the director of Aviastar, is being hit for back taxes.

There is no co-ordinated policy from above and individual plants which produce different variants of the Tupolev aircraft are forced to compete with each other for the contracts with Aeroflot.

Konstantin Titov, head of administration of Samara Region, the home of Avia-corp, which made the Tu 154, the now ageing workhorse of the Russian East, is attempting to put together a lobby of aircraft manufacturers.

Mr Titov is for pragmatism. "If we are spending \$340 million buying Boeing, all I say is let's spend a little of this money in Russia. We are already producing spare parts for Boeing, hydraulics, harness. Let's make Boeing deploy more orders and spend \$100 million of that money in Russia."

He understands Shaposhnikov's desire for modern planes now, but says: "If we want to continue economic reforms in Russia, we need stability and social peace. How do you persuade one million workers about the advantages of the market economy if they are all out of a job? And who will fly on Shaposhnikov's planes in his native country when people are without salaries for weeks?"

If, and it is a big if, Russia's aircraft industry can get its act together the prize could be enormous. A third player would emerge in the battle between Boeing and Airbus. The world's largest aircraft production facilities are already here.

The Norman conquest arriving at Platform 3

A French company is taking over the southern railways. Keith Harper takes the train

NEARLY a thousand years after William the Conqueror, the French have landed again on the south coast and are moving towards London sweeping all before them as route to Victoria and Charing Cross.

This time they are led by Compagnie Générale des Eaux, a French multinational with an annual turnover of \$20 billion and a world-wide labour force of 219,000. On Monday, they opened up the second of their rail franchises in the UK, Connex South Eastern, the old British Rail commuter services serving Kent and West Sussex.

CGEA is running Connex South Central, the neighbouring part of the south-east coast rail system, and is quickly achieving a dominant position in the capital. There are no croissants for passengers but the company hopes

to stamp its image on the public's mind with new trains, improved services and enhanced station facilities.

Connex is not the most customer friendly name, sounding more like one of those anonymous waste disposal companies CGEA has set up in Britain, but it is likely to become more famous.

Antoine Hurel, Connex Rail's chief executive, is not resting on his laurels. He is managing director of CFTA, a long established private sector train operator in Europe, and project director for rail joint ventures in Portugal, Sweden and Germany. He also managed the New York Penn station project to improve access for suburban and main line trains.

Connex, therefore, is casting its eyes at other BR passenger franchises. Another London area and one large regional railway are favourite targets. CGEA is not likely to bid for the west coast main line between London and Glasgow, though Mr Hurel said no final decision had been taken.

The French are very comfortable running a private railway under tightly regulated state control. It means

they can concentrate on the service and quality control while core decisions are taken out of their hands.

As one of the largest private passenger operators in Europe, its transport division employs 20,000 staff. It provides transport in 38 countries in France, including Calais, Rouen, Bordeaux and Le Havre, and runs 520 miles of track under contract from French national railways and local authorities.

Set up almost 150 years ago to provide drinking water for French cities, the group has grown to embrace energy, waste management, telecommunications, construction and water.

Running a large part of London's commuter network will not be easy. It is taking on a largely hostile clientele which has suffered from years of under-investment. So the promise of a £400 million investment programme over the next ten years to replace clapped out old rolling stock is encouraging. But the French, like the British, may have to learn that with limited market potential, it will take years of patience to obtain healthy financial returns.

Hungary's media sell-off

European groups gather as radio and TV stations go under the hammer

Zsolt Kaplar and Rodney Jefferson

INTERNATIONAL media companies, including Luxembourg-based CLT Multi Media, part of the consortium that won the rights to Britain's Channel 5, and the Daily Mail Group, are poised to move into Hungary's broadcast media market when the government publishes a long-awaited tender for two television and two radio stations in November.

France's TFI, German publishing company WAZ and Scandinavian Broadcasting System, SBS, are also expected to bid, after the Hungarian government finalises key details such as state-imposed broadcasting and frequency fees later this month.

The two 10-year television concessions include MTV2, one of Hungary's two over-staffed and under-funded state terrestrial television stations. Local media analysts estimated each TV concession to be worth between \$60 million and \$100 million.

Hungary's media bill, passed this year, states that the two TV channels and two radio frequencies, Danubius and a brand new one, must be out of state hands by January 1. However, the law failed to consider how the government was to sell them, which delayed the tender.

The government now has help. In August, Hungary's new television and radio commission, ORTT, selected Austrian investment bank Creditanstalt Securities to manage the sale of the television con-

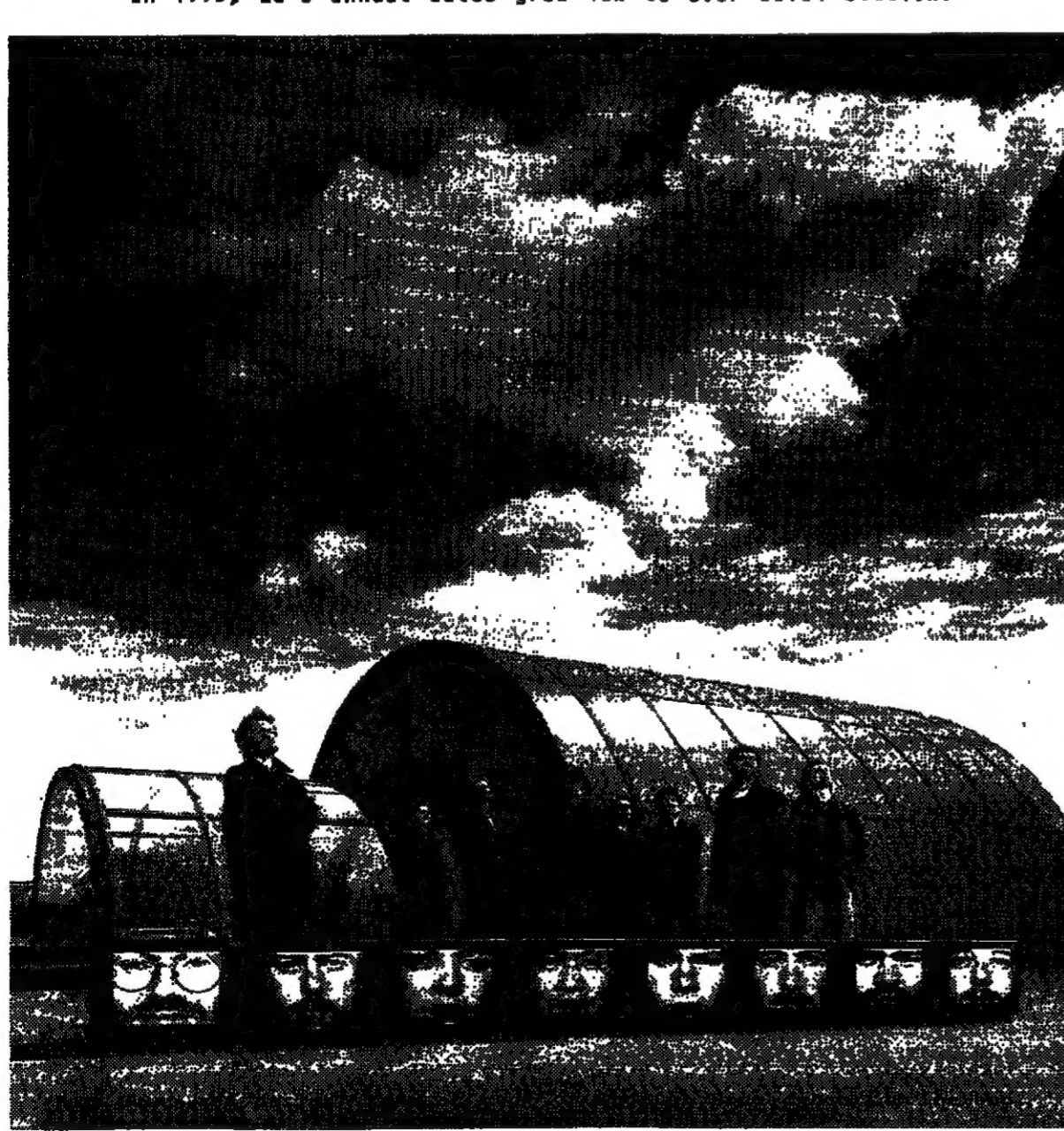
cessions and the investment arm of Holland's ABN-Amro to manage the sale of the seven-year radio concessions.

Foreigners after a radio station, like the Daily Mail Group, can bid alone, but those interested in the television stations must bid with a Hungarian media company.

Nap TV and MTM Communications, two Hungarian programme-makers, said they were discussing bids with foreign media companies, including CLT and SBS.

"I'm open," said Tamas Gyarmas, president and owner of Nap TV. "Maybe at one time all of them (international media companies) have visited us, but we have a common feeling we need to know the tender details first."

Representatives from the range of potential foreign bidders, local media companies and the Hungarian government are meeting in Budapest this weekend to discuss the sale.



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Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

Unichem makes £657m assault on Lloyds within minutes of DTI go-ahead • Gehe retort awaited

Battle for chemist hot up

Patrick Donovan
City Editor

ATWO-WAY battle for Britain's second-largest high street pharmacist, Lloyds Chemist, was reignited yesterday after Unichem launched a £657.6 million hostile takeover offer within minutes of being given the go-ahead by the Department of Trade and Industry.

The German pharmaceutical wholesaler Gehe was yesterday widely expected to pitch in a rival bid. The company said that it was evaluating its position. Hostilities have resumed following the DTI's accep-

tance that both Unichem and Gehe would sell parts of the bid target's chain if their takeover offers were successful. The Monopolies and Mergers Commission made this a condition in July after referring previous bids for Lloyds by both companies.

Consumer affairs minister John Taylor declared he was "satisfied that Unichem and Gehe have given undertakings as required... to remedy the competition concerns identified by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission".

Unichem last night said a successful bid would give it a 13 per cent stake in the UK's retail chemist market — second only to Boots. It added that yesterday's Office of Fair

Trading decision to lift price controls on branded drugs had "virtually" no bearing on the valuation of the offer.

Notebook

Keep medicine out of price war



Alex Brummer

HAVING helped batter the last remaining bastion of retail price maintenance — non-prescription drugs — the Asda boss, Archie Norman, can call off into the sunset as consumer champion and Tory MP.

opportunity for directly linking Thomson with GEC's core electronics business, Marconi. That has proved not to be the case. The French Lagardere group, which already has the Matra missile partnership with British Aerospace, has emerged as the successful candidate for a trade deal — which the French government sees as a key part of its defence restructuring.

The icing on the cake was the promise by an outside player in all of these manoeuvres, Daewoo, to take charge of Thomson's consumer electronics and double the number of jobs. A chance not to be missed for the Chirac administration.

Despite the widespread assumption that the approved deal would be better for BAE than GEC, the game is by no means over. GEC has some strategic thinking to do; hence the appointment this week of Jack Fryer to the same post of strategic director that he held when he worked alongside Simpson at Lucas. Fryer has played a key role in stitching together LucasVerity, following the transatlantic merger that has made that company a global player in automotive and aerospace electronics.



Muscovites are introduced to the Western pastime of watching a movie while eating popcorn and drinking Coca-Cola. Kodak Cinema World, a new 42,000sq ft retail and entertainment complex, will show dubbed first-run European and Hollywood films and the work of Russia's own movie-makers — and sell videos to offset a huge black market.

Cable firms planning for £600m link-up

Patrick Donovan
City Editor

BELL Cablemedia looks set to become the most powerful force in the fast-expanding British cable television market by clinching control of rival Videotron in a deal worth an estimated \$500 million according to well placed City sources last night.

The Anglo-Canadian company is understood to have won the deal in a three-way auction against Germany's Deutsche Telekom and International CableTel, another British cable operator.

Major admits debt is too high as Clarke struggles to find tax cut cash

Richard Thomas
and **Stewart Kennedy**

JOHN MAJOR admitted yesterday that the burden of government was "blot on the horizon" if not otherwise healthy, low-inflation economy.

As the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, completed a meeting with his advisers on options for next month's Budget, the Prime Minister said Britain had managed to achieve stronger economic growth than European competitors without igniting prices.

But he told a meeting of businessmen in Chelmsford that borrowing was too high. "The only economic blot on the horizon is the size of the fiscal deficit," he said. "That is a problem."

His admission followed a disappointing public borrowing figure for September — when the state was forced to borrow £3.5 billion despite a £1 billion privatisation windfall — and highlighted Mr Clarke's difficulty in finding some spare cash for tax cuts.

Magnox chief pleads for funds to hasten merger

Simon Beevis
Industrial Editor

THE Government was yesterday urged to make early commitment to provide funding to British Nuclear Fuels so that it can merge its operation with Magnox Electric, the atomic power generator, by April 1998.

Mark Baker, chairman of Magnox Electric, said that the issue of financial support — which could run to hundreds of millions of pounds — was one that needed to be addressed soon.

Fraud-busting lawyer stands accused of cheating his employer

Mark Tran in New York

LOYD'S, the embattled Linsuance market, appeared to have discovered a model investigator when it engaged James Dougherty, a Miami lawyer, to crack a multimillion-dollar international insurance racket.

Mr Dougherty worked tirelessly for the insurance market. He travelled to central America, Europe and the Middle East to uncover the activities of Munther Bilbeisi, a Lebanese businessman then living in Boca Raton, Florida, who had hoodwinked Lloyd's with suspect claims.

New cancer study hits tobacco firms

Researchers claim to have established definitive link, Mark Tran reports

A NEW study purporting to show a definitive link between smoking and cancer sent the embattled tobacco industry reeling yesterday.

The American research findings, published in the journal Science, may provide fresh ammunition for class or group action suits in Britain and the US that could lead to billions of dollars worth of compensation payments from the tobacco companies to smokers and former smokers.

News in brief

Going for brokers

Gerrard & National Holdings, discount house and brokers, said yesterday it has agreed to buy rival King & Shaxson Holdings for £53.7 million.

On the wagons

Stagecoach, the bus and rail company, avoided a monopoly commission inquiry into its £475.6 million purchase of Porterbrook, a rail carriage leasing company, after accepting government competition limits.

TI hard to stop

Henderson Investors' decision to reject TI Group's bid for Sweden's Forsberga engineering company is unlikely to stop the deal, analysts said.

Cross-media merger

Scottish Television announced the formal go-ahead of its £130 million takeover of Caledonian, publishers in Glasgow of the Herald and the Evening Times.

Olivetti shores up its boardroom

ITALY's troubled Olivetti has appointed four new directors to its board in an effort to head off mounting criticisms by investors.

The other new board members are Gordon Owen, chairman of Energis and Acorn Computers, in which Olivetti has a stake; French financier Gérard Worms; and Bruno Lamborghini, deputy chairman of Olivetti Telematica, the group's telecoms unit.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Australia 1.8350 | France 8.00 | Italy 2.392 | Singapore 2.19 |
| Austria 16.57 | Germany 2.3725 | Malta 0.5595 | South Africa 7.10 |
| Belgium 48.80 | Greece 373.75 | Netherlands 2.8545 | Spain 198.65 |
| Canada 2.0915 | Hong Kong 11.95 | New Zealand 2.1940 | Sweden 10.37 |
| Cyprus 0.7185 | Ireland 0.9645 | Norway 10.10 | Switzerland 1.94 |
| Denmark 9.1280 | Ireland 0.9645 | Portugal 240.50 | Turkey 145.171 |
| Finland 7.24 | Israel 5.14 | Saudi Arabia 5.91 | USA 1.65 |

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Finance Guardian

The lost picture shows

Britain's film makers need Kenneth Clarke to be a hero and he is reading from a different script. But LISA BUCKINGHAM finds die-hard campaigners never give up

BRUCE WILLIS would have abetted into Great George Street brandishing a sub-machine gun to extract forcibly a multi-million pound ransom from cowering boards of stuffy Treasury mandarins.

Real life film advocates will find the terrain far harder going. The Chancellor is tucking away every last penny in order to fund a last ditch grasp at election victory with income tax cuts. Many canny lobbyists have already given up the ghost, deciding that largesse for their industries will have to wait.

Yet next week the UK film industry — no doubt jauntily packing reels of *Four Weddings and a Funeral* under its arms — will deliver what it regards as its best shot for years at persuading Kenneth Clarke to provide handouts for film makers.

The Inland Revenue was yesterday expected to sign off a joint study with the British Screen Advisory Council into the implications of providing much more generous tax breaks. The investigation is believed to reveal that if film makers can write off all their production costs in one year, it would provide a tax pay-back within about 18 months. But that could be too long for a Chancellor with limited time.

The British film industry's leading lights still reckon this is their best chance to create

a level playing field on subsidies to transform the current mini-boom into sustainable growth rather than — as has happened with monotonous regularity — see the bubble burst as the Yanks leave town.

Tax breaks would encourage investment, and send a psychological signal that the government was prepared to back the industry, they argue. When Britain's global trade influence is declining, film makers argue that pumping culture on to the world's movie screens would be an apt counter measure.

The British Screen Advisory Council also stresses the spin-off benefits of a strong film industry, such as increases in tourism. If Britain could replicate the Crocodile Dundee Effect in Australia, that would mean an extra four million visitors bringing in about £2 billion of extra revenue a year.

On the surface the British film industry looks quite good. Successes such as *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and *Trainspotting* have provided a welcome fillip. And the number of releases has risen from fewer than 400 in 1994 to an expected 430 in 1996. And more money is flowing into the sector this year. Last month the Star Wars director George Lucas announced he would shoot three space epics in the UK using British actors and technicians in a £1.3 billion project. They will be shot at Leavesden Studios,

a £200 million aerodrome conversion.

Sibbeton Studios was recently acquired by Ridley Scott — director of *Blade Runner* — and his brother Tony, who produced *Thelma and Louise*. Another film studio is planned to form part of a joint venture. Hollywood-style, theme park on the outskirts of London, funded by Time Warner in partnership with United News and Media.

Earlier this year the ITV companies said they would invest £100 million in feature film production over the next five years. Already the BBC and Channel 4 are active, with the latter's credits including *Trainspotting*, *Secrets and Lies* and *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, although the profits went to the distributors because, as so often happens, C4 sold the rights.

In addition, the Arts Council has given the go ahead for plans to plough £160 million of National Lottery money into film production.

Overall investment has risen from just over £130 million in 1993 to £310 million last year. Further rises are expected this year. There has also been a greater number of European co-productions, giving British film makers access to EC subsidies.

But the BSAC says: "There is a lot more activity than for many years but, in real terms, we are still only back to the levels of 10 years ago. And, crucially, budgets for individual movies have fallen."

One of the major factors driving the current revival is the good exchange rate. Pamela Hoon, director of entertainment finance at Guinness Mason — one of the few serious film finance operations in the country — said: "There has been a 100 per cent jump in film production money this year. That is very positive, but does it indicate that a firm trend is emerging and are structures being formed which will cater for a longer term recovery?"

Ms Hoon added that most of the reason for the mini-boom is the exchange rate, now beginning to look less favourable. "That is a fundamental arbiter of inward investment in films, even though the UK has an excellent infrastructure."

The price of making films in the US has soared, partly thanks to the stratospheric sums now commanded by Hollywood stars. But powerful Hollywood unions have upped the ante for technicians and other less high profile members of the film team, making Britain look comparatively cheap.

It is estimated that a film can be made for about a third less in Britain than in the US. But those attractions are often simply not enough. When Mel Gibson wanted to make *Braveheart*, a £29 million film charting the loves and triumphs of Scotland's William Wallace, he plumped for Ireland where tax breaks provide a decided financial edge. At present the British government allows production costs to be written off over three years, but reducing this to one year — the break film makers want — could mean a 6 per cent budget saving for producers.

The entire structure of the UK film industry needs rethinking before any investment can be successfully con-

verted into a production stream with the strength to withstand the odd flop.

Experts argue that, without fundamental change, the UK will continue to be vulnerable to the Goldcrest factor — the company with so much promise that went belly up after box office failures such as *Revolution*, which starred Al Pacino, and *The Mission*.

One executive said: "We don't get the subsidies they do on the Continent and we simply don't have the size or critical mass enjoyed by the American companies."

HOLLYWOOD is, of course, hardly immune to box office turkeys — think only of *Waterworld*, the \$200 million vehicle for Kevin Costner, which ended up splashing red ink all over the finances of Universal Studios.

But, as Ms Hoon pointed out, "The US studios have very sound businesses underpinned by huge libraries. They are vertically integrated corporations with interests in property, theme parks and television. They produce between 25 and 30 films a year each of which spreads the risk. There might be five dogs, but then you will get a Terminator and that will carry the failures. The portfolio effect is crucial."

Recent financial results from most of the Hollywood giants have been tepid but films — or "software" in multi-media revolution speak — can be made to work over and over again if you own a TV network, and characters can be worth their weight in gold if you can use them as the focus for a theme park ride.

The British experience is completely different. Here the failure of one film tends to result in the collapse of the

whole venture. The industry is highly fragmented, largely composed of individuals and small production groups with the only domestic players of any size, such as the Rank Organisation, virtually moribund in terms of current activity.

"We are talking about a very small cottage industry," Ms Hoon said. "There are no economies of scale, no studio system. It is not really a business at all."

Despite the artistic concerns about Lottery money, and sceptical comments that it is bound to lead to more "jobs for the boys", harder headed executives in the film world feel that the award of money to "franchises" could lay the foundations for better integrated businesses — even if these are minuscule in comparison with Hollywood.

Something more recognis-

ably corporate might help to turn the current trickle of City money into something more substantial. The creation of these franchise groups might also see the UK film industry give birth to management — something presently in woefully short supply.

And, although the groups will, initially be small scale, it is envisaged that they would finance and produce a series of five to six movies a year which, in theory, should provide an element of safety even if some of the products failed.

But the problem about talking about, let alone imposing, structure on the UK industry raises the inevitable showdown between the luvvies and the accountants.

There are plenty of directors and technicians who have given up in despair and de-camped to Hollywood.

There are others who prefer the £20,000 a day in directing commercials. But there are plenty of people in the world of film who cherish their independence and feel hugely threatened at the idea that a manager might attempt to trim their creative wings.

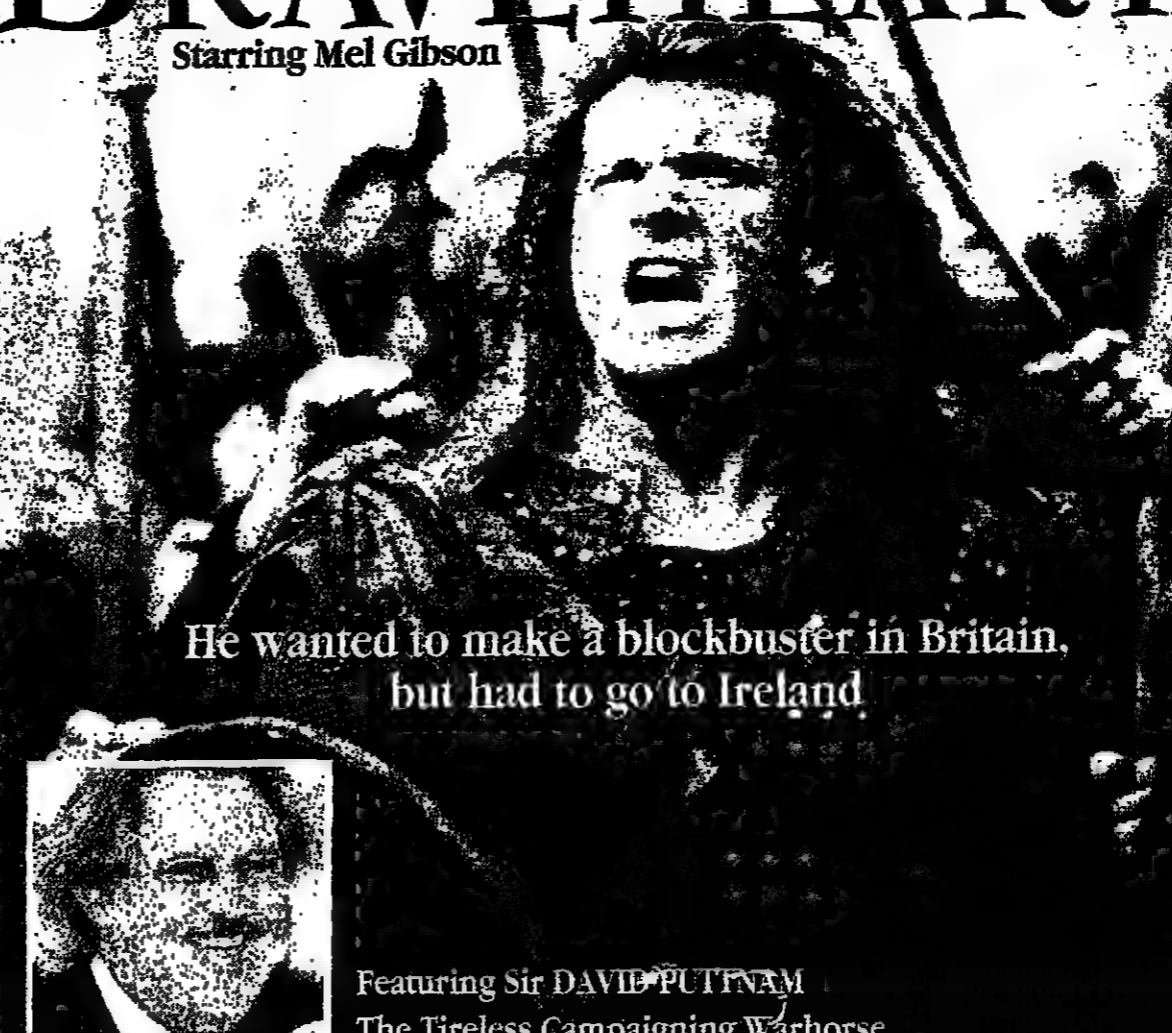
One production executive said: "There will be tensions between the creatives and the business executives. But these can be healthy and if one gets the upper hand for too long, there tends to be a sharp swing in the other direction. But if we don't start to think along those lines we will be heading for trouble."

And Ms Hoon concluded: "Ultimately, unless we become a business, survival will become a very real question. You can weave wonderful baskets, but that is no use unless you are organised to sell them."


An epic tale of an industry that refused to die

Making BRAVEHEART


Starring Mel Gibson



He wanted to make a blockbuster in Britain, but had to go to Ireland




Featuring Sir DAVID PUTTNAM
The Tireless Campaigning Warhorse



Co-starring VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY
The Tory songbird fresh from her Bournemouth triumph!

VENTURE FILMS PRESENTS AN IFCO PRODUCTION A MEL GIBSON FILM
MEL GIBSON BRAVEHEART THE BRITISH COUNTRY/SIDE IS IRISH SCENARIOS BY WOLFGANG PETERSON
MONTAGE BY LIZ COULDFIELD IN COLLABORATION WITH THE VIDEO REVEILLE LAND COMPANY

- ### REEL FACTS
- British film makers have won a third of all Oscars in the past 20 years
 - More than two-thirds of films are made in English yet the UK has only 7 per cent of the market, worth £1 billion a year
 - The world's film industry generates revenues of about £30 billion a year
 - Tax incentives for the UK industry could create 1,200 jobs
 - The Amersham hotel bedroom, featured in *Four Weddings and a Funeral* is booked until the end of next year
 - Hollywood films account for 85 per cent of box office takings in the UK
 - It is 15 years since Colin Welland predicted a British invasion of Hollywood when he collected the Oscar for *Chariots of Fire*
 - The audio-visual industry has overtaken aerospace as America's biggest overseas earner
 - Crocodile Dundee helped increase the number of US tourists to Australia by a fifth
 - Merchandising revenues for US films outstrip box office takings by about three to one



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Blockbusters

Top five British box office hits of the 1990s. Millions.

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Four Weddings and a Funeral | 72 |
| The Crying Game | 47 |
| Lawnmower Man | 27 |
| Much Ado about Nothing | 22 |
| Madness of King George | 17 |

Cost Earnings

Source: Arts Council

Quick Crossword No. 8261

Solution No. 8260

Across

- Lift-and-carry vehicle (4-4,5)
- Figure (7)
- Freight (5)
- Washbasin — to fall (4)
- European republic (8)
- Cooking ingredients and instructions (6)
- Found — copied (6)
- Motherly (8)
- Spice — club (4)
- Stadium (5)

Down

- One may get excited — or keeps cool (3)
- Derived from Latin (language) (7)
- Game — bird (4)
- Go after — and succeed (5)
- Relictant (8)
- Dismantle (5)

7 Information (9)

- Rugby player (5,4)
- Near — an entryway (8)
- Break down — or auto-gas (5,2)
- Fix (5)
- Greek letter (5)
- Wealthy (4)
- Beat — bronze (3)

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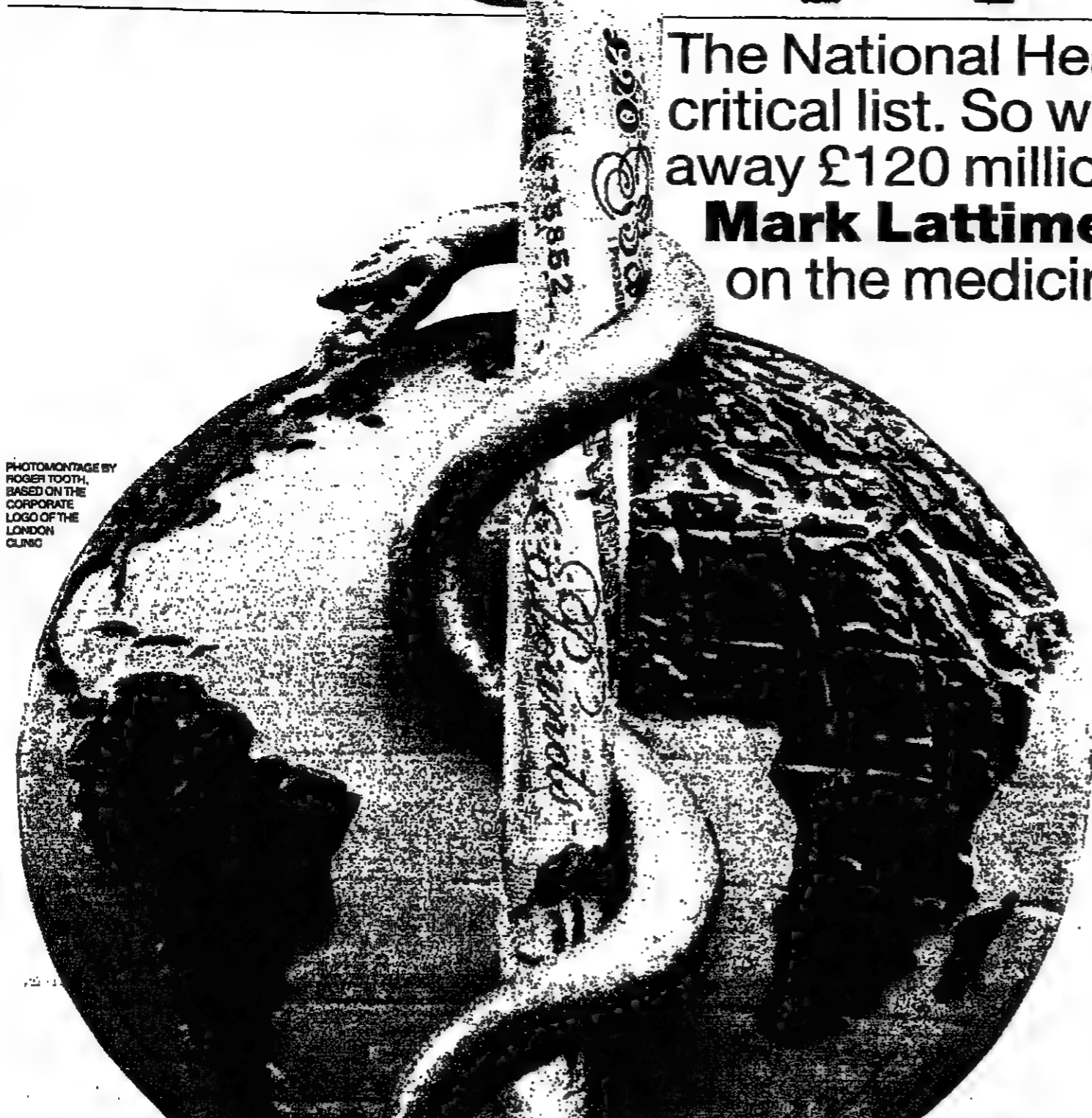
The Guardian the week

The National Health Service is on the critical list. So why are taxpayers giving away £120 million to private hospitals?

Mark Lattimer and Simon Garfield
on the medicine we can't afford

Going private at your expense

PHOTOGRAPH BY ROGER TOOTH, BASED ON THE CORPORATE LOGO OF THE LONDON CLINIC



ONE EXPECTS a little opulence at a private hospital, and the London Clinic does not disappoint. Patients enter a comfort zone, a respite from the streaming traffic of the Marylebone Road, a relief from their anxieties and ailments. The reception is warm and traditional, but the lift that takes patients to the clinical floor is something else; it contains a virtual reality fish tank in the shape of a waiting room. A nurse says that many clients "momentarily forget their worries as their curiosity takes over".

Once relaxed, a private patient may choose from a highly impressive list of services. There is the new endoscopy unit, opened just two weeks ago at a cost of £2 million, a vital weapon in the early detection of the colon cancer that

kills about 18,000 people each year. There is the "positive pressure" wing, part of a recent \$5 million investment in the medical oncology unit, invaluable in treating those with depleted immune systems. And, of course, there is the plastic and reconstructive unit, dealing with facelifts, breast enhancements and nose jobs.

The private patient, or the patient's medical insurers, pay heavily for these elite services, which are the envy of the NHS. About 12,000 people a year pay between £360 and £770 a night for the privilege of staying at the London Clinic, with medical costs on top. A further 50,000 people pay for day-care each year. Unlike NHS patients, they don't have to wait long to see a consultant and, with 171 beds and seven state-of-the-art operating theatres, surgery can be conducted within days.

In an ideal world, all of us — not just the privileged few — would be able to benefit from the premier service of the London Clinic. We certainly all pay for it. At the end of a week in which growing fears have been expressed for the ability of the NHS to cope — winter crisis ahead, six-year waiting lists for hip operations — it may anger some taxpayers to learn that the London Clinic is a registered charity. And as a charity it is estimated to benefit from £1.7 million in tax breaks every year, at the expense of those taxpayers.

And the London Clinic is not alone. Over one third of private hospitals use charitable status in order to avoid paying any corporation tax or capital gains tax, and to pocket the standard 80 per cent charitable relief on business rates. The number of private hospitals operating under the guise of charitable status has now reached 84 acute and 11 psychiatric hospitals.

The Nuffield Hospitals group has become the largest sector of acute hospitals in Britain outside the NHS, with a bold acquisition programme and a turnover of more than £120 million a year. But its official name is the Nuffield Nursing Homes Trust, registered as a charity to "prevent, relieve and cure sickness and ill health of every kind". The non-charitable BUPA group had to pay £9 million in corporation tax in 1994 for the 29 hospitals it runs; Nuffield paid nothing.

No. 8261

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REEL FACTS

British films have won all Oscars in the past 20 years

More than two thirds of films made in England the UK has 90 per cent of the market, worth £1 billion a year

The world's film industry generates revenues of £30 billion a year

Tax incentives the UK industry could create 10 jobs

The American hotel bedrooms featured in *The Wedding Singer* and *Funeral* is booked until the end of the year

Hollywood accounts for 20 per cent of box office takings in the UK

It is 15 years since Colin Wallace predicted the invasion of Hollywood into the UK for Christmas

The audience industry is overtaking aerospace as America's top overseas earner

Crocodiles helped by number of tourists: Australia

Merchant revenues: films out of office take about 10%

Now sober but still jolly, Rosie Boycott is a survivor who this week becomes the first woman to edit a national broadsheet

Days of wine and Rosie



WHEN Rosie Boycott was 29 and deputy editor of Honey magazine, a friend called her, announcing he was launching a new magazine in Cyprus...

"It was such a thrill when I finally stopped being drunk," she says, as we sit in her sunny dining room and she obligingly drags up her past for me to pore over.

Than it was escaping Kent University, where she spent just two terms reading maths before running off to go on marches and work on the underground press in London.

Now aged 45, Rosie Boycott is a survivor. You can see it in her voice. It's an ideal quality with which to edit the Independent on Sunday.

AFTER splitting up with Steinbeck, she came back to England but promptly charged off again to edit a women's magazine in Kuwait.

As a result, she says, it took her a long time to enjoy ordinary things. "I got an incredible amount of satisfaction when I bought this house," she grins, looking around her at the red walls and old upright piano.

After sobering up, Boycott married a journalist, David Leitch,

(author of God Stand Up For Bastards) and produced Daisy, who now aged 13 can thrash her mother on the tennis court.

Which may go some way to explaining her notoriously fat contacts book. At Esquire, where she was picked up as Editor of the Year Award two years running...

At this point there is a noise at the front door and Bingo races off to greet Daisy, back from school.

How, I demand, will Boycott, as a single parent, cope working until late on a Saturday night?

"Oh we're on the phone the whole time, in and out, we have a network between us, we have dinners together where we have David, his first wife, current house, mother, from one of his liaisons, her boyfriend, their boyfriends, it's lovely, just terrific!"

"Oh we're on the phone the whole time, in and out, we have a network between us, we have dinners together where we have David, his first wife, current house, mother, from one of his liaisons, her boyfriend, their boyfriends, it's lovely, just terrific!"

But she is a Labour supporter? "Of course! I was going to do a



Rosie Boycott... 'I was going through endless struggles to re-invent myself into someone I could live with.' PHOTOGRAPH: EAMONN McCABE

'The sixties made you think big and take risks'

magazine with them, I'm very involved and I'm longing to see them in government. But I don't swallow what they're going to do hook, line and sinker, and I'm getting exasperated by the fence-sitting.

Even this revival of sickness is not wiping us out in the way that might be expected. More of us are surviving retirement

paper's new republican stance? "No, I'm not a republican. I mean no one's going to say the royal family right now are a good thing, but I'm not keen on republicanism. I can't see its value and I find it unbelievably boring."

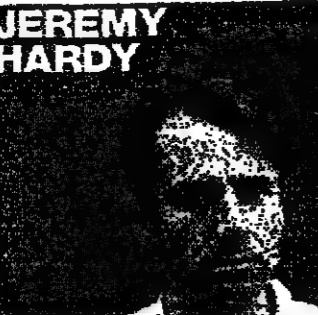
considered rational. Experience will knock the stuffing out of the young, and death will silence the old. But everyone admires their spirit.

ered productive members of society and thereby entitled to be heard. But during this time—during our working lives—we're supposed to dedicate ourselves to making our children as employable as possible and preparing ourselves to die with dignity, that is, with a private pension.

the party establishment felt quite comfortable with Lady Castle's attack. The opinions of the old are benignly disregarded in the same way as those of the young.

squirrel, an unfortunate role model for anyone who hopes not to spend their autumn years going through bins and hopping naked through the park.

All a pensioner wants is the same rights as everybody else. And only when we equate human rights with human needs shall we start to become anything like a civilised society.



Old timers clogging up the arteries of government

JEREMY HARDY
HILLINGDON Hospital's rejection of elderly patients has highlighted what is seen by many as the most threatening ailment in our society.

Apparently, human beings have a limitless desire to go into hospital. Given a moment's leisure, we're all haranguing our GPs, insisting that we need some opera-

tion or other. And fair play to the Government; more of us are being hospitalised than ever before. The Tories have helped to provide more of us with malnutrition, tuberculosis, stress, depression and industrial injury.

One would have thought that attitudes to age would have progressed faster than they have, given that we can all look forward to being older for longer.

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Even this revival of sickness is not wiping us out in the way that might be expected. More of us are surviving retirement

ered productive members of society and thereby entitled to be heard. But during this time—during our working lives—we're supposed to dedicate ourselves to making our children as employable as possible and preparing ourselves to die with dignity, that is, with a private pension.

Postponed the release of reports on... U2



TV by mob rule

JENNY JONES (Sky One) is about teenagers who have breast implants. But while there were enough DD cups on display to satisfy Russ Meyer, what was really impressive and depressing about this freak show was the range of unlikely stories the guests had to relate. If nothing else, researchers really earn their crusts on American crying-time television.

to reduce women to sex objects likely to attract the most drooling, oafish sort of interest, so appearing on Jenny Jones withers guests' lives to unedifying commodities, converting experiences into spectacle for strangers' titillation.



This week's plays - including the monster Heathcliff - represent a victory for style over content. And they're all the worse for that, says Michael Billington

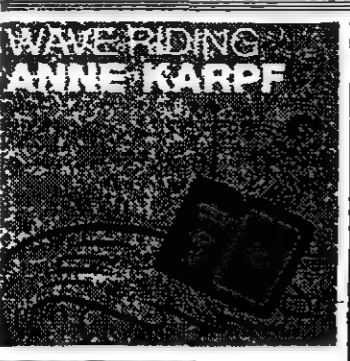
Cliff hanger

The blockbusters

STYLE or substance? Form or content? Ideally in art the two should mesh so that you cannot see the join. But looking back over this week's theatrical offerings - from the desperately feeble Heathcliff to Stephen Bill's new state-of-the-nation play in Richmond - it strikes me that you can't beat a good theme: that in drama, technical deficiencies matter less than the spectacle of a writer grappling with an important issue.

International Tattoo - not to be told a story or to see Emily Brontë's novel come to life. They have clearly assembled to see their idol pretending to be a saturnine gypsy; and their reactions of mock-horror when he strikes his wife or hurls a rival to the ground point up their awareness of the loved object's squeaky-clean image.

really symbolic moment in Heathcliff comes when the hero stands on top of a crag posing in a manner reminiscent of Caspar David Friedrich's painting, Man and Woman Observing The Moon, the work that actually inspired Waiting For Godot. Where Beckett discovered an abiding image of desolation, Sir Cliff finds only an excuse for romantic artifice.



Arise Mr Bloke

HOW DO you reward a loyal audience? The answer, in the BBC's case, seems to be to shit on them from a great height. Last Sunday, Andy Kershaw's two-hour show, a long-time occupant of the Sunday 10pm slot, was moved to midnight to make way for a new album programme. According to a BBC spokesperson, Kershaw was shunted later because he has a loyal and dedicated audience which will follow him anywhere. (Presumably, had he managed to cultivate a disloyal one, he'd have been allowed to remain in the old slot.)

ents, The Album Show on its first outing seemed a pleasing enough programme; Andy Kershaw's, however, is distinguished public service broadcasting. Radio 1 must be hoping that Maconie fares better than Danny Baker, who disappeared off the face of the network three weeks ago, just two years after his trumpeted debut. But Baker's back on Radio 5 Live doing the thing he does best, gabbling about sport. His new Wednesday show, The Baker Line, is a football fanzine, a fan's phone-in not unlike Six-O-Six before David M... or took it over from him. (I had hoped to get through my reviewing career without ever mentioning M... but, there, I've failed.)



Pearl Fishers... buried in post-modern symbolism

Tim Ashley sees English Touring Opera get Pearl Fishers totally wrong

Washed up

ETC's new production of Pearl Fishers is a major disappointment from a company whose artistic record has hitherto been exemplary and which should have got the piece right. Bizet works best pared down. His musical language is terse and aphoristic. The origins of his theatricality lie not in 19th-century melodrama, but in the sculpted, gestural theatre of Racine; Pearl Fishers is essentially Berenice transported to Ceylon. As with Racine, the setting matters little. What is important is the emotional interplay of four characters, conveyed by a score in which every note speaks volumes.

central emotional tangle across, though much of the staging is unintentionally risible. "You are safe here," Leila cried to Nadir as the couple attempted to consummate their passion atop a vertiginous zig-zag. As if in answer, the construction began to wobble violently. It says much for ETO's musicianship that Bizet emerged from this travesty unscathed. Andrew Greenwood proved yet again to be an excellent conductor of French music, emphasising the subtle sensuality of the score. Adrian Clarke's Burgas was a performance of considerable stature, richly sung and dramatically compelling. Jeffrey Stewart negotiated the implacable tessitura of Nadir's arias with ease, succeeding where many a better-known tenor has conspicuously failed. As Leila, Sandra Zeltzer was exciting, but somewhat raucous in music that needs more refinement. The chorus can only be described as heroic.

Book of the Week

Alias Grace Margaret Atwood 1996 Booker Prize Shortlisted At the age of sixteen Grace was jailed for the cold-blooded murders of her employer and his lover. McDermot, Grace's alleged accomplice, was hanged in 1843, but her sentence was commuted to life. After 16 years, no longer considered mad or dangerous, she claims to have no memory of the murders. As a young doctor probes her memories the enigma of whether Grace is a femme fatale and murderer or an innocent victim unfolds.

The oddity

THE VOICES, though faint, were clear. "You go first." "Oh no!" "After you." "No, come on! You've got to go first." A small, bustling dog, with no patience for this sort of thing, shot out first. Then, like the weather man and woman who can never come out together, Prince Charles and Rosemary Verey.



Stormy weather... Prince Charles and Rosemary Verey

King, The Queen describes herself as a weeder. Prince Charles, a true gardener, will one day inherit the largest garden in London. You could not help noticing, as they squelched around, how often he emphasised the negative, how much he seems to need positive encouragement. His new fountain would not run clear. She said: "It's nice. You've got to forget it's mucky." Moss would not grow for him. "Moss," she said, "grows where you don't want it." He was pointing out another failure when she said firmly: "Don't look at that. Let's only look at the nice things." She might have been his nanny. He must promise me never again to use that weakening word "rather". It was rather fun to bring back pebbles from abroad... rather wonderful to plant a thyme walk... he was rather pleased with a statue... rather keen on Japanese gardens... rather fascinated by Japanese deer scares (those bamboo things that go plunk in a pool). You seem to see him on his knees: "My back's a nuisance so I kneel in order to plant." Rather said.

Manchester City Art Galleries advertisement for 'The Inner Eye' exhibition, featuring Marina Warner's art.

Racing

Halling can clinch title

Ron Cox expects the Godolphin team to complete a champion double

TODAY'S Champion Stakes at Newmarket promises to live up to its name...

The duel between Godolphin's Saeed bin Suroor, trainer of Halling, and Henry Cecil, who pins his faith in Bosra Sham...

For Cecil, the drama does not end there. Bosra Sham's well-chronicled foot problem at one stage made today's showdown unlikely...

Bosra Sham pleases Cecil

FEARS about Bosra Sham missing today's Champion Stakes eased yesterday...

York, so in terms of form Bosra Sham and Halling are on a par...

It is, after all, the Dubai Champion Stakes and in Halling (4.15) the sponsors have an outstanding 10-furlong performer...

Championship "deciders" take a habit of falling flat in racing and it would be no great surprise if Timarida spoiled the script...

It is with each-way betting uppermost in mind that Good Hand (3.00) is put forward in the Tote Cesarewitch...

A whole host of fancied horses have been beaten in the Cesarewitch because they all to see out the leading two and a quarter miles trip...

feeling the bruise. She is jumping and kicking and as long as nothing terrible happens to the mare, hours ago will be fine...



That's my boy... In Command receives a welcoming pat after winning yesterday's Dewhurst Stakes at Newmarket

PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JEWINS

In Command is best of the bunch

Streaked

THE Dewhurst Stakes has produced many champions over the years, but it will be a surprise if any of yesterday's field at Newmarket emerges as a force for the Classics next season...

In Command, scambled home in a bunch finish and is 26-1 with Coral's for the 2,000 Guineas...

helped In Command to show improved form, but the result was generally greeted with indifference...

Unless the Racing Post Trophy at Doncaster next Saturday throws up an impressive winner, Bahhare will maintain his position at the head of the ante-post through the winter...

Dabai, but now the season's leading two-year-old will remain with John Dunlop...

to land his first Group-race ahead. Yesterday Dazzle was conceding 2lb to her rival, a remarkably display of consistency from these two high-class fillies...

ahead. Yesterday Dazzle was conceding 2lb to her rival, a remarkably display of consistency from these two high-class fillies...

Smith now meets the fast-improving French 17-year-old Anna-Gaëlle Siot in today's semi-finals...

Newmarket card with form for televised races

Table of race results and form for Newmarket, including races like 1.45 Bosra Sham, 2.30 Good Hand, and 3.00 Good Hand.

2.20 OWEN BRIDGE HURDLE

Table of race results for Owen Bridge Hurdle, listing horses like 1. DANTE (17) and 2. BIRKENHEAD (18).

Channel 4

Table of race results for Channel 4, including 3.00 THE CHAMPIONSHIP and 4.45 BEYFORD LODGE HOTEL.

3.00 THE CHAMPIONSHIP

Table of race results for The Championship, listing horses like 1.1100 BISHOP (17) and 2.1100 BISHOP (18).

Channel 4

Table of race results for Channel 4, including 3.35 ALBERTA and 4.00 BISHOP.

Catterick runners and riders

Table of race results for Catterick, including 2.05 THE PROSPECT and 2.40 FLORENCE WOOD APPRENTICE.

2.05 THE PROSPECT

Table of race results for The Prospect, listing horses like 1.02222 PRUITANA (14) and 2.02222 PRUITANA (15).

2.40 FLORENCE WOOD APPRENTICE

Table of race results for Florence Wood Apprentice, listing horses like 1.21042 BEAK THE RULES (13) and 2.21042 BEAK THE RULES (14).

3.15 THE FOODS

Table of race results for The Foods, listing horses like 1.100 THE FOODS (17) and 2.100 THE FOODS (18).

3.50 CROSS HOLE

Table of race results for Cross Hole, listing horses like 1.25000 CROSS HOLE (17) and 2.25000 CROSS HOLE (18).

4.25 THREE GULL LIMITED

Table of race results for Three Gull Limited, listing horses like 1.10000 EARLY PEACE (11) and 2.10000 EARLY PEACE (12).

4.55 FOUR BECK CONDITIONS STAKES

Table of race results for Four Beck Conditions Stakes, listing horses like 1.200 MARYLESTONE (1) and 2.200 MARYLESTONE (2).

6.30 CLOSE OF PLAY

Table of race results for Close of Play, listing horses like 1.20-20 GODFREY HARRIS (17) and 2.20-20 GODFREY HARRIS (18).

Blinkered for the first time

CATTERICK: 2.05 FRUITANA; 2.40 KASHANA; 3.00 GODMERSHAM PARK; 3.30 OVERHELM; 4.10 FIELD OF VISION; NONIS; NEWMARKET: 1.45 BLAZE OF SONG; COLD FIRE; EASY JET; WOLVERHAMPTON: 7.00 SMITHERS; 9.30 RED RUSTY.

Results

Table of race results for various tracks, including Newmarket, Catterick, and Wolverhampton.

Catterick

Table of race results for Catterick, including 2.10 CPTA, 3.10 CPTA, and 4.10 CPTA.

Tennis

Henman on new high

A FREE-FLOWING Tim Henman enjoyed the second-finest victory of his burgeoning career...

The British No.1 underlined his growing reputation on the circuit by following his victory over Greg Rusedski...

Instead of renewing rivalry with his Wimbledon conqueror Todd Martin, whom Henman then beat in the US Open...

Henman, seeded seventh here, will benefit from his latest semi-final appearance by rising from his current No.29 world ranking...

The match continued to be a test of mental strength for the British No.1, who missed a match point 6-5 in the deciding set...

Rugby League

Kiwis

Mr Hong Kong, the world No.1 Pete Sampras and the third-ranked Thomas Muster were eliminated in the Marlboro Championships...

Wolverhampton

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No way through... Matthew Ridge is stopped short by Great Britain's Paul Broadbent and Terry O'Connor during yesterday's match in Auckland

First Rugby League Test: New Zealand 17, Great Britain 12

Kiwis capitalise as Morley sins

Andy Wilson in Auckland

ADRIAN MORLEY will never forget his first taste of Test football. The 18-year-old Leeds forward was sin-binned by the Australian referee Bill Harrigan within moments of coming on as a late substitute and in the remaining nine minutes the centre John Timu scored two tries which gave New Zealand a securely deserved win.

The back-line defence, left the tourists exposed and Timu capitalised ruthlessly. The Lions felt, with some justification, that Morley's punishment was harsh. The captain Andy Farrell said: "It was disappointing that the referee had to send someone to the bin for holding down at such a late stage, because everybody had been doing it all game."

Great Britain's problems had started with a Bobbie Goulding cross-kick to the right wing in the sixth minute. The move had allowed pro-tackles more than has become the norm in England, told his players at half-time to exploit the official's generosity to prevent the Kiwis "getting on a roll".

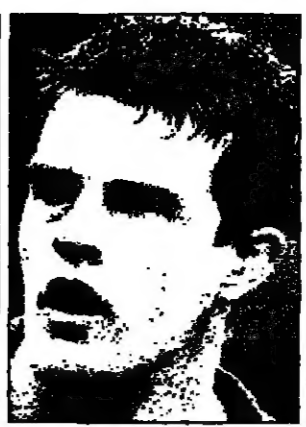
Within a minute of Morley going to the sin-bin, Gene Ngumu threw a long pass to Timu who stepped inside Sealor and crashed through Radlinski's tackle to score. New Zealand's next raid the prop Grant Young released the ball to Ngumu who gave Timu the space to score again. Ridge converted both tries and added a 40-yard drop goal in injury time.

Great Britain, even though defeated, should approach the Tests in Palmerston North and Christchurch confident in their ability to pull level after a first-half performance in which the Sheffield prop Paul Broadbent led some magnificent forward effort and Betts was an inspiration. He deservedly scored the second try after fine handling by Goulding and the substitute Chris Joynt.

Rugby Union

A spot of Welsh dog in the Harlequin pack

SENTIMENT will not blunt the edge of Gareth Llewellyn's iron-clad commitment when the 5ft 6in Harlequin lock confronts his old mates from Neath in a game at The Stoop that could spell the end of the Welsh club's interest in the Heineken European Cup.



Llewellyn... iron-clad Robert Armstrong on Gareth Llewellyn, who tackles his old club Neath today

Win bonuses of £1,250 per man per game explain why he moved from The Gnuil, Llewellyn, whose 50 appearances for Wales make him the most capped lock in their history, was targeted by Quins' director of rugby Dick Best as the kind of streetwise senior pro to put "dog" into an outfit who used to be widely regarded as a soft touch.

His desire to play in the forthcoming internationals against Australia and South Africa keeps him bombing up and down the M4 to come from Neath as well as to win matches, an ambition he started to fulfil with Neath last season when they scored a record number of tries on their way to the Heineken League title.

"It will be a bit strange competing against close friends with whom I achieved a great deal in Welsh rugby," Llewellyn reflects. "I was partly responsible for bringing Lynn Jones to The Gnuil as coach and he proved to be one of the most creative people I ever worked with. Lynn used to say: 'It's not stupid to make mistakes, just stupid to keep on repeating them.' His innovative ideas helped our very difficult side win the league within two seasons."

Still, Llewellyn knows that

"I learned a great deal from those men," says Llewellyn. "We had the strongest pack in Wales and honest backs who did their best, and it was enough to win the league in the first year of the competition." Llewellyn was Welsh Player of the Year in 1988.

professionalism, which has brought him a five-year contract, could not have arrived at a better time, given that his best years have yet to come, not to mention the 1996 World Cup in Wales. The fact that he now literally rolls shoulders with some of the best players in Europe — Calanmes, Wood and Carling, for example — can only stimulate his own highly focused pursuit of excellence.

"It was an odd experience to jump straight from the close-knit atmosphere of Neath into a London club that had recruited so many good players from other countries," admits Llewellyn. "We took time to get acquainted but we've managed nine wins from nine games and I believe the best is yet to come from Harlequins. We're an adaptable bunch of players and, despite the different nationalities, we don't have a language problem. Cabannes speaks fantastic English and the prop Benezec has very good pidgin English."

"I already knew Jason Leonard from way back because my brother Glyn, who plays for the North London Phoenix, used to play for Harlequins when Jason was in the side. Later on Jason stayed at our home in Wales after playing in internationals in Cardiff."

Llewellyn has swiftly become accustomed to the lower decibel count at The Stoop, which is a world away from the raucous intimacy of The Gnuil. "The fans here are definitely different, more upper crust," he says, "but they've been great so far."

Success in Europe tops Quins' list of priorities, closely followed by a desire to win their first league title. Llewellyn's expertise will be invaluable when the path gets bumpier in mid-winter. First there is the threat of Neath, followed by a difficult trip to Brive, runners-up in last season's French championship. "Brive have already beaten Neath, so they must be a strong side," says Llewellyn loyally. "I know they've been getting information and advice on how to play British teams from Nick Farr-Jones, who sends them faxes from his office in Paris. Still, we'll be getting the low-down on Brive from Cabannes, who played against them with his old club Racing Club de Paris." That's another advantage of having players from different parts of the world.

Stratford National Hunt programme

Table listing horse racing events at Stratford, including 2.25 Payer of Jocks, 2.55 New Year's Eve, 3.25 New Year's Eve, 4.00 Make a Hand, 4.35 Garygoth, 5.05 Mr Strong Gale, 5.40 Make of Oak, 6.25 Payer of Jocks, 6.55 New Year's Eve, 7.25 New Year's Eve, 8.00 Make a Hand, 8.35 Garygoth, 9.05 Mr Strong Gale, 9.40 Make of Oak.

Kempton (N.H.)

Table listing horse racing events at Kempton, including 2.10 Celtic Khatree, 2.50 Sealor's Obedience, 3.20 Warm Spot, 4.00 Great Crack (nb), 4.35 Great Crack, 5.00 Call My Guest, 5.55 Cavalry Challenge, 6.25 Sealor's Obedience, 6.55 Sealor's Obedience, 7.25 Sealor's Obedience, 7.55 Sealor's Obedience, 8.25 Sealor's Obedience, 8.55 Sealor's Obedience, 9.25 Sealor's Obedience, 9.55 Sealor's Obedience.

Kelso (N.H.)

Table listing horse racing events at Kelso, including 3.00 Seal of the Deal, 3.30 Thunder Bolt, 3.55 Seal of the Deal, 4.00 Seal of the Deal, 4.30 Seal of the Deal, 4.55 Seal of the Deal, 5.25 Seal of the Deal, 5.55 Seal of the Deal, 6.25 Seal of the Deal, 6.55 Seal of the Deal, 7.25 Seal of the Deal, 7.55 Seal of the Deal, 8.25 Seal of the Deal, 8.55 Seal of the Deal, 9.25 Seal of the Deal, 9.55 Seal of the Deal.

Wolverhampton all-weather card tonight

Table listing horse racing events at Wolverhampton, including 7.00 Seal of the Deal, 7.30 Seal of the Deal, 8.00 Seal of the Deal, 8.30 Seal of the Deal, 9.00 Seal of the Deal, 9.30 Seal of the Deal, 10.00 Seal of the Deal, 10.30 Seal of the Deal, 11.00 Seal of the Deal, 11.30 Seal of the Deal, 12.00 Seal of the Deal.

ian Balding's Tagula, Paul Cole's Inzar and the Sean Woods-trained Mistle Cat are part of a 12-runner field for the Group One Prix de la Forêt (77) at Longchamp tomorrow. Kevin Darley maintains his partnership with Tagula after partnering the son of Taufan to a comeback victory in the Group Three Supreme Stakes at Goodwood last month.

Fenton banned

PIP PAYNE, the Newmarket trainer, and jockey Michael Fenton were found to be in breach of the non-triers' rule over the running and riding of Kweilo in the Travis Perkins Maiden Stakes at Newmarket yesterday. Fenton was banned for five days and Payne fined £400 after the stewards ruled that the gelding had failed to obtain his best possible placing.

RACELINE COMMENTARY table showing race results for Newmarket, Kempton, Stratford, Kelso, and Wolverhampton. Columns include race number, race name, winner, and time.

